

Typha latifolia Western Herbaceous Vegetation

COMMON NAME	Broad-leaf Cattail Herbaceous Vegetation
SYNONYM	Broad-leaved Cattail Marsh
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Herbaceous vegetation (V)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Perennial graminoid vegetation (V.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/semi-natural (V.A.5.N)
FORMATION	Semipermanently flooded temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.1.)
ALLIANCE	<i>Typha (angustifolia, latifolia)</i> - (<i>Scirpus</i> spp.) Semipermanently Flooded Herbaceous Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 2

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

RANGE

Globally

This community occurs in Montana, Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, and western Nebraska.

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

This community is occasional along the Platte and Laramie Rivers, and in seepage areas north of the canal.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

This community is found along streams, rivers, and the banks of ponds. The soil is saturated or flooded for much of the year (Ramaley 1939, Tolstead 1942). It usually has a high organic content.

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

This community occurs on level sites near the river. The soils are saturated alluvium.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

<u>Statum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Typha latifolia</i>

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

<u>Statum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Typha latifolia</i>

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Typha latifolia

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

Typha latifolia

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

This community is dominated by hydrophytic macrophytes, especially *Typha latifolia*, which grow to approximately 2 meters. *T. latifolia* can form dense stands in places, almost to the exclusion of other species. Other species typical of wetlands are found in lesser amounts in this community. Among these are *Carex* spp. and *Scirpus* spp.

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

This community consists of stands of *Typha latifolia*, typically 1-2 m tall. Coverage is typically 50-75%. Standing water may or may not be present, depending on the season.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES Information not available.

CONSERVATION RANK G5

RANK JUSTIFICATION

DATABASE CODE Cegl002010

COMMENTS

Globally

This community is a common element found in many wetland systems, but has received little attention. Consequently, the diagnostic features and species of this community are not well known.

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

At least one stand contained plants that were suggestive of *Typha angustifolia*, and the study area is within the range of the species (Dorn 1992). In this species, the staminate and pistillate spikes are not contiguous, being separated by 1-8 cm of bare rachis. However, spikes in *T. latifolia* occasionally are not contiguous (to 4 cm of bare rachis), and intermediate hybrids between the two species are not uncommon (Great Plains Flora Assoc. 1986). In plants observed at Fort Laramie NHS, the bare rachis was quite short (less than 1 cm).

REFERENCES

- Dorn, R. D. 1992. Vascular Plants of Wyoming. 2nd ed. Cheyenne, WY: Mountain West Publishers.
- Great Plains Flora Association. 1986. Flora of the Great Plains. Lawrence, KS: University Press of KS.
- Ramaley, F. 1939. Sand-hill vegetation of northeastern Colorado. Ecological Monographs 9(1):1-51.
- Tolstead, W. L. 1942. Vegetation of the northern part of Cherry County, Nebraska. Ecological Monographs 12(3):256-292.